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* HARRY'S IN TOWN *
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* Property of Johnnie *
* Speer *
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HARRY'S IN TOWN

CAST

~~HARRY~~

CARL LIGHT COMEDY

MR. HOLT CHARACTER COMEDY

SHERIFF CHARACTER COMEDY

EFFIE SOUBRETTE

LYDIA COMEDY

MINNIE BIT

FAITH (

HOPE (-----,BITS

CHARITY (

SETTINGS

SCENE ONE STREET IN ONE

SCENE TWO HOTEL LOBBY FULL STAGE

PROPS

Three suit cases
Shot gun
Two revolvers
Warrant

HARRY'S IN TOWN

SCENES DROP IN ONE STREET SCENE. EFFIE ENTERS R. AND CARL ENTERS L. THEY ARE BOTH CARRYING SUIT CASES. EFFIE HAS HER HANKERCHIEF OUT AND IS CRYING. A LITTLE WAY ACROSS THE STAGE SHE STOPS, GASPS AND DROPS HER SUIT CASE. CARL STOPS, SETTING HIS SUIT CASE DOWN)

CARL

Why, what's the matter, little girl?

EFFIE

Oh I just couldn't carry that horrid grip any longer. (HOLDING AR?)

CARL

Well, I'll carry your grip. Perhaps I'd better call a taxie?

EFFIE

No, no thank you--(SHE LOOKS UP AT HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SCREAMS) Harry! My brother! Don't you recognize your own sister or do you want to?

CARL

My dear, girl I have no sisters. I'm the only one in the family; father was a Scotchman.

EFFIE

Do you mean to say that you are not Harry Holt, my brother?

CARL

I do!

EFFIE

Then you are his exact image!

CARL

Was your brother good looking?

EFFIE

He was a lady killer.

CARL

I have never killed any of them, but I'd like to.

EFFIE

My brother, Harry, had a little mole on the back of his neck. Let's see! (LOOKS) No you haven't any mole. Harry also had a scar on his hip. (STARTS TO LOOK)

CARL

Never mind! I haven't got any thing but a half pint on my hip.

EFFIE

Didn't any one ever stop you and take you for my brother.

CARL

No, this is my first time in this section of the country. I'm a travelling salesman, I'm headed for Sour Meadows. I'm selling socks.

EFFIE

Sour Meadows---Oh Heaven must have sent you to me.

CARL
No, the guy I work for sent me. Why do you say that?

EFFIE
Oh would you do a good turn to a poor old man who is just in his last few years of life? Would you make a father the happiest man in the world?

CARL
What have I got to do?

EFFIE
Impersonate my brother.

CARL
Why, that's impossible.

EFFIE
No it isn't. You could fool any one, you've fooled me, and that's a real test. You see my father owns the Sour Meadows Hotel and he's getting so old that he can't run it properly any more. I've been away to college, and during my absence my brother Harry ran away and left my father to run the hotel all by himself. Father is grieving himself to death over Harry's actions.

CARL
And you want me to go there and say that I've returned?

EFFIE
Yes, and if you do, you will probably save my father's life and his hotel. Now I'll help you to carry out the deception, and I will always be your friend if you will. I'm home from college, and will stay all summer. Will you do what I have asked you?

CARL
I'm game! It will be great sport for awhile any way. (LOOKS AT WATCH) Say, we'll have to hurry to catch our train. (WHISTLE) There's the train now. Sour Meadows bound---and whom am I supposed to be?

EFFIE
Harry Holt, my brother!

CARL
Oh sister! (THEY LAUGH AND EXIT)

***** NUMBER ONE *****

(STREET AWAY TO HOTEL LOBBY SCENE. LYDIA IS CLEANING UP THE HOTEL LOBBY AND SINGING SCURLY)

HOLT
(ENTERS) Lydia, what thearnation are you doin'? Why aint ya workin'? Don't you know my daughter is coming home today.

LYDIA
Oh gosh is Effie going to be home for the summer?

HOLT
Yes, my little daughter is coming home to her old dad. God bless her.' She's going to be something someday. She won't go off and

leave her old daddy like my son Harry did.

LYDIA

That boy of yours sure did fly the coop, didn't he?

HOLT

I'll never forgive the scamp, never!

LYDIA

I wish he'd come back; he borrowed a dollar off me day before he left town.

HOLT

And he knew his old dady couldn't handle all the business that this hotel calls for. It's gettin' me down. I'll not live five years with all this work. (NOISE OFF STAGE)

LYDIA

Oh look here comes your daughter now, and she looks like a million dollars going somewhere to be spent/ Who's that guy with her?

HOLT

Why it's Harry, my son. He's coming back. (CARL AND EFFIE ENTER C)

EFFIE

(RUNNING TO HOLT) Dad!

HOLT

Effie, my daughter!

EFFIE

Look who came back with me, daddy.

HOLT

You young scamp what made you up and leave me with this hotel on my hands?

CARL

~~Thank you, daddy~~ I'll never do it again. Forgive me

HOLT

Well, I'll forgive you after I've kicked your brains out!

EFFIE

Now daddy let's not quarrel. My the old place hasn't changed much has it? You still have Lydia, and nothing's changed about her.

LYDIA

Oh yes, I've changed my socks since you left.

HOLT

Yeah, the board of health made her!

LYDIA

(GOING UP TO HARRY AND GRINNING) Harry, are you ready to do what you said you would?

CARL

(LOOKING AT EFFIE) Why---er---er yes, what did I say I would do?

LYDIA

Well, the night before you left town you said you'd marry me.

CARL

Oh Lord!

EFFIE

Why, Lydia, Carl---I mean Harry didn't say anything of the kind.

LYDIA

Oh yes he did. He said if I'd loan him twenty-five a dollar he'd marry me.

HOLT

And now son, I don't want to get personal or anything but just what did you do with the money you took out of my safe the night you left town.

CARL

Huh?

EFFIE

Why, father, didn't Harry borrow some money from you?

CARL

No, the son of a gun just took it---there's was just a hundred dollars in the safe the night he left town.

SHERIFF

(OFF C.) Never mind let me find out first. (ENTERS C. PULLS GUN)
Harry Holt! Throw up yer hands in the name of the law, gol darn ye, I got ye.

CARL

Say what does this mean?

SHERIFF

I've got charges agin' ye for things you did the night before you left town, Harry Holt. I'm the sheriff of this here county, and I aint to be fooled with. I'm a bad man.

HOLT

Now look here, Sheriff, you can't arrest my son without first producing a warrant.

SHERIFF

And gosh darn it to jeeswax I've got that too. It's right--(FEELS IN TOP POCKET) It's right here. (BACK POCKET BUS. OF FEELING EVERY POCKET ADLIBBING) Well, gosh all fish hook, jimmey corn swaggle I'll be dad burned and a couple of gol durns ef I aint left the durn warrants to home. Now you stay right where you are and I'll come back and arrest you in a minute! (EXITS C.)

CARL

Stay where I am nothing. I'm catching the first train out of here.

EFFIE

No, no, you must stay and face the music.

HARRY

Yes, but I don't like the kind of music they're playing.

HOLT

Now, Harry, you must be brave. These here town folks always did have it in for you, and I don't believe you did all of what they said you did. I only believe you did half of it.

CARL

Well, isn't that nice?

HOLT

LYDIA, go get some water from the pump and put in Harry's room, and also some clean sheets. I'll go get a board and patch up that hole in the roof---unless maybe you want running water in your room, Harry?

CARL

Well, I'd like to take a bath. Have you got a bath tub?

HOLT

Now, Harry, you know good and well we put that bath tub out in the yard for a horse trough. Come on, Lydia, get busy. (EXIT WITH LYDIA L.)

CARL

Say what kind of a job have you given me? If I'm held responsible for everything your brother did the night before he left town, I'll be sent to the chair.

EFFIE

Oh, we'll find a way out of it some how, Carl. Please don't disappoint father; he's had so many bad breaks.

CARL

All right, Effie, I'll stay.

EFFIE

Carl, I could kiss you for that.

CARL

Well, why don't you?

MINNIE

(ENTERS C. SEES CARL AND SCREAMS) Harry! The father of my child!

CARL

That's the end! (CHASE OFF)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

CARL

(ENTERS R.) Well, this impersonating another man is a bad deal. I don't know what minute I'm going to get hung.

LYDIA

(ENTERS L. AND THROWS HER ARMS AROUND HIM) Oh my hero!

CARL

Let go of me, you fool!

L

LYDIA

Oh, Harry, how you be so mean? You said you'd marry me.

CARL

I wouldn't marry you on any condition.

LYDIA

If you don't marry me, I'll kill myself.

CARL

Is that a threat or a promise?

LYDIA

Then give me back my dollar. You said you'd marry me if I loaned you a dollar. Now it's either marry me or pay.

HARRY

Well, I'll pay! I've only got a fifty dollar bill and I don't want to break it. I'll pay you tomorrow.

LYDIA

You won't be here tomorrow.

CARL

Why won't I?

LYDIA

The Sheriff's going to have you put in jail.

CARL

Not if I know it, he isn't.

LYDIA

I'll bet you have another shootin' scrape like you did the --

CARL

Night I left town. It must have been a busy night the night I left.

LYDIA

Gosh, that was some shootin' mess. I got hit in the county seat.

CARL

Well, rest assured you'll get your money.

MINNIE

(ENTERS C. WITH SHOT GUN) You wretch! Do you see this.

CARL

The army is here!

MINNIE

Unless you marry me, I'll kill you.

CARL

What! When did I promise to marry you?

MINNIE

The night you left town.

&

CARL

But I promised to marry this thing the night I left town.

MINNIE

What.---well then give me my fifty dollars.

CARL

Fifty dollars!

MINNIE

Yes, you said if I loaned you fifty dollars you'd marry me---and I loaned you the fifty. My father's the sheriff of this county and you'd better marry me.

SHERIFF

(ENTERS C.) Ah, there you are, slicker.

CARL

Have you got the warrant?

SHERIFF

You dad burn right I have. It's---right here. (BUS. ALL POCKET)
Well, I'll be hornswaggled dadb rn sun of a bit my finger off 'ef
I didn't leave the thing on my office desk. Don't you dare move until
I come back to arrest ye. (STARTS OUT C. JUST AS THREE GIRLS ENTER
HOPE FAITH AND CHARITY

HOPE

Here is the scoundrel, and we demand recompense. (ALL ADLIBB)

SHERIFF

What's the charge, young women?

ALL THREE

He promised to marry us.

SHERIFF

Whendid he do that?

CARL

The night I left town.

HOPE

I laoned him a hundred dollars if he would marry me.

two

CHARITY

I loaned him a hundred dollars if he would marry me.

faith

I loaned him three hundred dollars if he would marry me.

SHERIFF

Young man, you've got yourself in a nice jam. You'll have to marry them.

MINNIE

But, Father, he promised to marry me.

SHERIFF

What!

MINNIE

Yes, I loaned him fifty dollars.

SHERIFF

Oh you dirty eyed pie face. Did you take my daughter's money?

MINNIE

Oh it wasn't my money, dad.

SHERIFF

Who's was it?

MINNIE

Yours!

SHERIFF

Ow! I'm gonna get them warrants and make out fifteen more for you, you dirty sun of a gun. (STARTS)

HOPE

Wait! Sheriff, we want satisfaction.

SHERIFF

Hell, I want my fifty dollars! (EXITS C.)

(GIRLS ALL ADLIBB AND FIGHT OVER HARRY UNTIL SHERIFF ENTERS)
Stop in the name of the law. I have the warrant.

CARL

Well, put me in jail to save me from being torn to pieces.

SHERIFF

Here's the warrant. It's right--(SAME BUS. ALL POCKETS) Well, sufferin' gum drops I've lost it. Listen here, ladies, all of you will have to go down to the court house and swear out a complaint and make a law suit out of this before we can do anything.

ALL

We will. We'll suessue sue sue sue That's what we'll do. (EXIT)

SHERIFF

Ah, you slicker, you'll soon be behind the bars, just wait a little longer. I'm going to tie a string around that warrant (EXIT)

HOLT

(ENTERS) Harry, I've been looking for you.

CARL

You aren't the only one.

HOLT

It seems to me that you would be man enough not to let your crooked life lead you into stealing your own father's fortune.

HARRY

What do you mean?

HOLT

I mean that you stole my valuable stocks in the Las Vegas

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gold mines. That stock was worth five thousand dollars a share, and the market was on a big rise.

EFFIE
(ENTERS) Hello, father, what are you and Harry chatting about?

HOLT
Effie, your father is a busted man. This scamp stole my stock in the Las Vegas Gold Mines.

EFFIE
No!

HOLT
Hell yes!

EFFIE
Oh what will we do?

HOLT
Well, thank heavens the poor house is only two miles from here, that won't be a long walk. I guess I ought to be starting now. (EXIT)

EFFIE
Oh, Carl, this is more serious than I thought it would be. My brother must have been crazy to have done all of this. Harry must have simply cleaned the town.

CARL
Well, if he missed any one I'd like to know it. I believe I'm engaged to every girl and her sister in this county, and everything seems to have happened the night he left town. I'm so sick of hearing "It happened the night you left town" that I could choke the next person that says that to me.

EFFIE
I'm sorry, Carl. I don't know why you have carried it through this far. I would have never asked you to do it if I had known. Why you were just a total stranger when I met you that day going to the station, and think what you have been through.

CARL
Oh well, I'd go through a lot more for you, Effie.

EFFIE
Would you, honest?

CARL
Yes--say do you believe in love at first sight?

EFFIE
I didn't until--

CARL
Until--

EFFIE
Until I met you.

CARL
Effie! (TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS)

LYDIA
(ENTERS L.) Ho ho! I caught you! Say when are you going to pay me that dollar.

CARL
Will you let me alone.

LYDIA
Yeah, when you pay me that dollar.

CARL
Oh let the dollar drop.

LYDIA
Well, you drop it and I'll pick it up.

EFFIE
Oh don't worry, Lydia, he'll pay you. But where have you been?

LYDIA
I've been over to Old Man Sawbuck's farm, and what do you think happened

EFFIE
I can't imagine.

LYDIA
His old cat had kittens, the cow had calves, the dog had pups, and they got a pair of twins.

CARL
When did all that happen?

LYDIA
The night you left town!

CARL
Get out of here!

LYDIA
Well, all right, but something serious really did happen. They just found out the bank was robbed the--

CARL
The night I left town!

LYDIA
Yep.

EFFIE
Did they just now discover it?

LYDIA
Yep, the cashier opened up the bank today and missed a postage stamp and a dollars worth of pennies.

EFFIE
A terrible loss!

LYDIA

Yeah, it means the bank is busted I guess.

CARL

Well, there's just one thing I didn't do the night before I left town.

EFFIE

What's that?

CARL

I didn't murder anybody.

SHERIFF

(ENTERS WAVING WARRANT) I've got it this time. Now b, hooky you are in it!

CARL

What have I done now?

SHERIFF

The night you left town, you murdered a man and left his body in the duck pond.

CARL

Yea Gods!

EFFIE

No!

SHERIFF

Yes, he did. We found the body of a man in the duck pond just a little while ago.

CARL

But how do you know that I did it?

SHERIFF

We don't know, but we're going to say you did any way.

CARL

But why? What for?

SHERIFF

Well---so we can hang you!

LYDIA

Oh boy! We're going to have a hanging and I aint seen one in two years. Hot durn!

EFFIE

But you can't do that.

SHERIFF

Who can't? Don't tell me, the sheriff of this here county, that I can't hang a man. I'll show ye right fer yer eyes. I'vegot the w warrant now, young man, and to jail you go.

CARL

CARL
Say, this has gone far enough.

SHERIFF
Ye darn right it has, and we're going to stop it. (POKES GUN IN HIS RIBS) March, in the name of the law! (THEY MARCH OUT C.)

***** NUMBER THREE *****

HOLT
(ENTERS WITH LYDIA) Well, Lydia, are you going to the trial today.

LYDIA
I wouldn't miss it for anything in the world. I'm going to get my dollar.

HOLT
Where's my daughter, Effie?

LYDIA
I guess she's down at the jail house talkin' to Harry. Funny thing, I was down to the jail house, and now Harry tries to kid everybody by telling 'em he aint your son.

HOLT
The boys crazy I guess.

EFFIE
(ENTERS C.) Oh, daddy, we've got to do something for Harry. They're going to convict him of that murder, and I know he didn't do that.

HOLT
A boy that would steal from his own father would do anything.

EFFIE
Oh, father, you mustn't say that if Harry did steal from you.

SHERIFF
(ENTERS C.) Well, Mr. Holt, things look mighty bad for that son of yours. He's got so many charges again him now, that we're going to have to hang him twice.

LYDIA
Is he locked up tight in the jail?

SHERIFF
Tight? I should kiss a pig he is! I've got three hand cuffs on him two balls and chain, a straight jacket, and four locks on the door.

LYDIA
Any danger of him gettin' lose? (SHOUTS OFF STAGE)

MINNIE
(RUSHES IN C. ALL OUT OF BREATH) Harry's lose!

SHERIFF
Escaped! I'll get him. He must have blowed up the jail. (EXITS C.)

HOPE
(ENTERS) Harry's lose.

LYDIA
We know it.

HOPE
He was walking down the street just like he hadn't done a thing in his life.

CHARITY
(ENTERS C.) Harry's lose!

LYDIA
That's three times he's lose.

SHERIFF
(ENTERS C.) Say you folks are crazier than seven half wits. Harry aint no more lose than a bear caught in a trap.

MINNIE
Well, I know better; I saw him walking down the street.

SHERIFF
Well, somebody's a liar somewhere. I don't understand it. He claims that he isn't Harry Holt at all.

EFFIE
He isn't. He is just a man who looks like my brother that is all.

SHERIFF
Say feed that to some small town sheriff.

EFFIE
But I tell you its the truth!

SHERIFF
All that believe that stand on their head. (ALL STAND STILL) See what did I tell you. Harry Holt is in jail, and he 'll stay there.

CARL
(ENTERS THIS TIME IN DIFFERENT SUIT CARRIES SUIT CASE AND IS THE PART OF HARRY HOLT) Hello, folks. All gathered together for my home coming, eh?

SHERIFF
Home coming. Why how in the tarnation did you get out of that jail?

CARL
Don't make me laugh. I just arrived on the ten thirty train.

HOLT
Just arrived?

CARL
Yes, dad, I've saved your fortune.

HOLT
Saved it? Who for?

CARL

For you. You thought that I stole those stocks didn't you?

HOLT

Well, I 'm not a suspicious man, but when I looked and found they were gone, I thought of you awful blame sudden.

CARL

The night I left here. I left in a hurry. I went to New York.

EFFIE

Brother, what about the money?

CARL

It's all here. I got a tip that some crooks were going to bid out our stock in Las Vegas, and that the concern was short of funds to fight them by several thousand dollars. I started out to save the fortune in every way I could. I beg borrowed and stole the money from every where in town. But now I'll pay it all back. All people just step in the next room there, and get in line for your money. I am now a wealthy man. Dad, Las Vegas stock is now twice its old value.

HOLT

Boy, I always knew you was honest!

LYDIA

Yea Horse's ash can!

CARL

Ladies, just step in the other room there, and I will pay you all off as I have no desire to marry you. (ALL GIRLS EXIT)

SHERIFF

Say I want to know who that feller is that I got down to the jail?

~~KICKER~~ EFFIE

He's the man who said he was not Harry Holt. Now will you believe him?

SHERIFF

I guess I'll have to.

HOLT

Say though what about that man that Harry was supposed to have murdered and thrown in the duck pond?

SHERIFF

Oh we found a note on the corpse sayin' he had committed suicide.

holt

Then everything is all right. But, Effie, why did you bring that other feller here if you knew he wasn't your real brother.

EFFIE

I thought it would make you happier that's all. Now I'm going down to the jail house and get my Carl out, and then I'm going to marry him. (EXITS)

LYDIA

Say, Harry you got that dollar.

HARRY

Yes!

LYDIA

Well, you don't have to give it to me if ya want to be my husband.

HARRY

Well, I'll pay ya the dollar!

LYDIA

All right, I'll go to Kansas City, and buy a man!

***** F I N A L E *****